

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Ricky W. Purcell et al. Examiner: Jacqueline M. Papapietro

Serial No.: 10/648,589 Group Art Unit: 3739

Filed: August 25, 2003 Docket: 1443.054US1

For: A FLEXIBLE WRAP FOR SUPPORTING A PORTION OF A BODY

APPEAL BRIEF UNDER 37 CFR § 41.37

Mail Stop Appeal Brief- Patents
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The Appeal Brief is presented in support of the Notice of Appeal to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences, filed herewith, from the final rejection of claims 7-9, 11-20, 26-28 and 31 of the above-identified application, as set forth in the Final Office Action mailed on May 2, 2007.

The Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 19-0743 in the amount of \$500.00 which represents the requisite fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 41.20(b)(2). The Appellants respectfully request consideration and reversal of the Examiner's rejections of pending claims.

APPEAL BRIEF UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 41.37

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1. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest of the above-captioned patent application is the assignee,
KIMBERLY-CLARK WORLDWIDE, INC..

2. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

There are no other appeals or interferences known to Appellant that will have a bearing on the Board's decision in the present appeal.

3. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

The present application was filed on August 25, 2003, with claims 1-31. A non-final Office Action mailed November 29, 2006. A Final Office Action (hereinafter "the Final Office Action") was mailed April 19, 2007.

Claims 1-6, 10, 21-25 and 29-30 have been cancelled.

The remaining claims 7-9, 11-20, 26-28 and 31 stand twice rejected, remain pending, and are the subject of the present Appeal.

4. STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

No amendments have been made subsequent to the Final Office Action dated April 19, 2007. (The amendments presented in Appellant's response to the Final Office Action filed May 7, 2007 were not entered.)

5. SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

Aspects of the present inventive subject matter include, but are not limited to, a flexible wrap for supporting a portion of a body.

INDEPENDENT CLAIM 7

An example flexible wrap 30 for supporting a portion 101 of a body 100 is shown in FIGS. 5-8 and described in the specification at page 7, line 16 through page 8, line 26. The flexible wrap 30 comprises an elastic band 31 and a plurality of fingers 34A, 34B, 34C that extend from an end 33 of the elastic band 31. As shown in FIGS. 5-8, each of the plurality of fingers 34A, 34B, 34C is integral with the elastic band 31.

The plurality of fingers 34A, 34B, 34C are secured to an exposed section 36 of said elastic band 31 when the flexible wrap 30 is attached to the body 100. The fingers 34A, 34B, 34C allow a user or therapist to compensate for the contours of the body 101 by customizing the pressure applied along the width W of the flexible wrap 30

INDEPENDENT CLAIM 13

Another example flexible wrap 50 for supporting a portion 101 of a body 100 is shown in FIG. 9 and described in the specification at page 8, line 27 through page 9, line 12. The flexible wrap 50 comprises an elastic band having a first end 53A and a second end 53B. An adhesive layer 52 is mounted on the elastic band 51 near the first end 53A to secure the elastic band 51 to a body. The adhesive layer 52 is adapted to be detachably mounted to skin on the body.

A plurality of fingers 54A, 54B, 54C extend from the second end 53B of the elastic band 51. The plurality of fingers 54A, 54B, 54C are integral with the elastic band 51 and secured to an exposed section of the elastic band 51 when the flexible wrap 50 is attached to the body.

The example flexible wrap 50 further includes a plurality of fasteners 57A, 57B, 57C such that each finger 54A, 54B, 54C includes at least one fastener 57A, 57B, 57C for securing the plurality of fingers 54A, 54B, 54C to the exposed section of the elastic band 51.

INDEPENDENT CLAIM 15

Another example flexible wrap 70 for supporting a portion 101 of a body 100 is shown in FIGS. 10-13 and described in the specification at page 9, line 13 through page 11, line 8. The flexible wrap 70 comprises an elastic band 71 and a pack 80 that includes a midsection 82. The flexible wrap 70 further includes a fastener 83 (e.g., an adhesive layer) that extends along the midsection 82 of the pack 80 such that the fastener 83 secures the pack 80 to the elastic band 81.

In the example flexible wrap 70 illustrated in **Figures 10-13**, the adhesive layer 83 extends substantially between the opposing edges 81A, 81B of the pack 80 (**Figure 11**) and is transverse to the lateral edges 78A, 78B of the elastic band 71 when the pack 80 is secured to the elastic band 71 (**Figures 10 and 12**).

The flexible wrap 70 is shown in **Figure 10** in a relaxed condition and in **Figure 12** in a stretched condition. Positioning the adhesive layer 83 on the midsection 82 of the pack 80, and orienting the adhesive layer 83 transverse to the lateral edges 78A, 78B of the elastic band 71, minimizes the stress that is generated on the joint between the elastic band 71 and the adhesive layer 83 when the elastic band 71 is stretched as part of being wrapped around the body 100. The location and orientation of the adhesive layer 83 relative to the elastic band 71 and the pack 80 allows the pack 80 to be reliably secured to the elastic band 71 without using a pocket formed on the elastic band 71.

INDEPENDENT CLAIM 26

A method of supporting a portion of a body is shown in FIGS. 5-8 and described in the specification at page 7, line 16 through page 8, line 26. The method comprises wrapping an elastic band 31 around the portion 101 of the body 100 and securing a plurality of fingers 34A, 34B, 34C that project from an end 33 of the elastic band 31 to an exposed section 36 of the elastic band 31.

The method may further include repositioning at least one of the fingers 34A, 34B, 34C to customize pressure applied by the elastic band 31 to the portion 101 of the body 100. In some sample forms of the method, repositioning at least one of the fingers 34A, 34B, 34C includes disengaging at least one of the fingers 34A, 34B, 34C from the elastic band 31 and then securing the finger(s) 34A, 34B, 34C to another part of the elastic band 31 (see **Figure 8**).

This summary does not provide an exhaustive or exclusive view of the present subject matter, and Appellant refers to each of the appended claims and its legal equivalents for a complete statement of the invention.

6. GROUNDS OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

Claims 7-9 and 11-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Chalek (US 6,936,018 B2).

Claims 26-28 and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Peterson (US 5,538,500).

Claims 13 and 15-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Peterson (US 5,538,500).

Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Peterson (US 5,538,500) as applied to claim 13 above, and further in view of Daneshvar (US 2003/0149389A1).

Claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Peterson (US 5,538,500) as applied to claim 16 above, and further in view of Hymes (US 6,455,065 B1) and Podell et al. (US 5,620,702).

7. ARGUMENT

A) The Applicable Law under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. M.P.E.P § 2131. To anticipate a claim, a reference must disclose every element of the challenged claim and enable one skilled in the art to make the anticipating subject matter. PPG Industries, Inc. V. Guardian Industries Corp., 75 F.3d 1558, 37 USPQ2d 1618 (Fed. Cir. 1996). The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the claim. Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co., 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989).

B) Discussion of the rejection of claims 7-9 and 11-12 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Chalek (US 6,936,018 B2).

Claims 7-9 and 11-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Chalek (US 6,936,018 B2). As part of making the rejection, the Examiner states at page 2 of the Final Office Action that “Regarding claim 7, Chalek discloses . . . wherein each of said plurality of fingers is integral with the elastic band (Fig 1, column 5 lines 18-19).” Appellants respectfully traverse the assertion because the portions of Chalek that are cited by the Examiner show that the attachment elements 26 are “affixed to the distal end 24” of the strip 12.

Appellants further note that the FIGS. of Chalek show that the attachment elements 26 are separate from the strip 12 (i.e., not “integral” with the strip 12). Therefore, Chalek does not describe “a plurality of fingers extending from an end of said elastic band . . . wherein each of said plurality of fingers is integral with said elastic band” as recited in claim 7. Claims 8-9 and 11-12 depend from claim 7, and are patentable over Chalek for the reasons argued above, plus the elements in the claims.

C) Discussion of the rejection of Claims 26-28 and 31 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Peterson (US 5,538,500).

Claims 26-28 and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Peterson (US 5,538,500). As part of making the rejection, the Examiner states at page 3 of the

Final Office Action that “Regarding claim 26, Peterson discloses . . . attaching one end of an elastic band to skin on the body using an adhesive (28, Fig 1).” Appellants respectfully traverse the assertion.

Appellants can not find any description in Peterson that one end 16 of the disclosed bandage wrap 12 is attached to the body using an adhesive while the opposing end 18 of the bandage wrap 12 is attached to an exposed section of the bandage wrap 12. Appellants note that tape 28 in Peterson is only described as being in the wound-covering section 14 of the bandage wrap 12, which is not on either end of the bandage wrap 12 (see Fig. 1 and col. 4, line 66 through col. 5, line 18 of Peterson).

Therefore, Peterson does not describe “attaching one end of an elastic band to skin on the body using an adhesive” in combination with “securing a plurality of fingers that project from an opposing end of the elastic band to an exposed section of the elastic band” as recited in claim 26. Claims 27-28 and 31 depend from claim 26, and are patentable over Peterson for the reasons argued above, plus the elements in the claims.

The Examiner further states at page 9 of the Final Office Action that “Appellant’s argument regarding claims 26-28 and 31 is not found persuasive because the claimed method is anticipated by the normal use of the wrap as disclosed by Peterson, as described above.”

Appellants respectfully traverse the assertion because as discussed above, Appellants can not find any description in Peterson that one end of the disclosed bandage wrap is attached to the body using an adhesive while the opposing end of the bandage wrap is attached to an exposed section of the bandage wrap. Appellants again note that tape in Peterson is only described as being in the wound-covering section 14 of the bandage wrap 12 (i.e., not on either end of the bandage wrap 12).

D) The Applicable Law under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

To sustain a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103, references must be cited that teach or suggest all the claim elements. M.P.E.P. § 2142 (citing *In re Vaeck*, 947 F.2d 488, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991)). In determining the differences between the prior art and the claims, the question under 35 U.S.C. 103 is not whether the differences themselves would have been obvious, but whether the claimed invention as a whole would have been obvious. *Stratoflex, Inc.*

v. *Aeroquip Corp.*, 713 F.2d 1530, 218 USPQ 871 (Fed. Cir. 1983); *Schenck v. Nortron Corp.*, 713 F.2d 782, 218 USPQ 698 (Fed. Cir. 1983); *Interconnect Planning Corp. v. Feil*, 774 F.2d 1132, 1143, 227 USPQ 543, 551 (Fed. Cir. 1985); MPEP § 2141.02.

Often, it will be necessary . . . to look to interrelated teachings of multiple patents; the effects of demands known to the design community or present in the marketplace; and the background knowledge possessed by a person having ordinary skill in the art, all in order to determine whether there was an apparent reason to combine the known elements. In the fashion claimed by the patent at issue. To facilitate review, this analysis should be made explicit. *KSR Int'l Co. v. Teleflex, Inc., No 04-1350 (U.S. Apr. 30, 2007)* (see KSR slip op. at 14). These statements in KSR appear to reinforce the statements made in *In re Sang Su Lee*, 277 F.3d 1338, 61 USPQ2d 1430 (Fed. Cir. 2002) which indicate that the Office Action must further provide specific, objective evidence of record for a finding of a suggestion or motivation to combine reference teachings and must explain the reasoning by which the evidence is deemed to support such a finding.

E) Discussion of the rejection of Claims 13 and 15-19 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Peterson (US 5,538,500).

Claims 13 and 15-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Peterson (US 5,538,500).

Claim 13

Appellants respectfully traverse the rejection of claim 13 because Peterson does not describe each and every element of the claimed invention. As discussed above, Appellants can not find any description in Peterson that one end 16 of the disclosed bandage wrap 12 is attached to the body using an adhesive while the opposing end 18 of the bandage wrap 12 is attached to an exposed section of the bandage wrap 12. Appellants note that the tape 28 in Peterson is only described as being in the wound-covering section 14 of the bandage wrap 12, which is not on either end of the bandage wrap 12 (see Fig. 1 and col. 4, line 66 through col. 5, line 18 of Peterson).

Therefore, Peterson does not describe "an adhesive layer mounted on said elastic band near said first end to secure said elastic band to a body, wherein said adhesive layer is adapted to be detachably mounted to skin on the body" in combination with "a plurality of fingers extending from said second end of said elastic band" as recited in claim 13. The Examiner appears to acknowledge this at page 5 of the Final Office Action by stating "Peterson does not disclose having the adhesive layer near the first end."

The Examiner attempts to overcome the acknowledged deficiencies of Peterson by stating at page 8 of the Office Action that:

"it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Peterson by placing the adhesive at an end of the elastic band in order to secure the flexible wrap to the skin at an end of the wrap instead of in the middle. . . ."

Appellants respectfully traverse these assertions in part because Peterson does not describe an adhesive layer mounted on an end of the elastic band to secure the elastic band to a body.

Appellants respectfully submit that the statements made by the Examiner regarding a motivation to modify Peterson are mere conclusory statements of subjective belief because the statements are analogous to the unsatisfactory statements made by the Examiner and board in *In re Lee*, 277 F.3d 1338 (Fed. Cir. 2002).

"With respect to Lee's application, neither the examiner nor the Board adequately supported the selection and combination of the Nortrup and Thunderchopper references to render obvious that which Lee described. The examiner's conclusory statements that 'the demonstration mode is just a programmable feature which can be used in many different devices for providing automatic introduction by adding the proper programming software' and that 'another motivation would be that the automatic demonstration mode is user friendly and it functions as tutorial' do not adequately address the issue of motivation to combine. This factual question of motivation is material to patentability, and could not be resolved on subjective belief and unknown authority. It is improper, in determining whether a person of ordinary skill in the art would have been lead to this combination of references, simply to use '[use] that which the inventor taught against its teacher.' *W.L. Gore V. Garlock, Inc.*, 721 F. 2d 1540, 1553, 220 USPQ 303, 312-13 (Fed. Cir. 1983)." *Lee*, at 1343, 1344."

Appellants respectfully note that the Examiner provides no support for the assertions relating to modifying Peterson which were made in the Office Action. Appellants respectfully

submit that the only description relating to a flexible wrap as recited in claim 13 is found in Appellants' disclosure.

The Examiner further states at page 9 of the Final Office Action that "The claim states that the adhesive of Peterson 'is not on either end of the bandage wrap.' The claims states that the adhesive layer is 'near said first end.' In response to Appellant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of Appellants' invention, it is noted that the features upon which Appellants relies (i.e., the adhesive layer mounted on an end of the wrap) are not recited in the rejected claim(s)."

Appellants respectfully traverse the assertion because Appellants is relying on language recited in claim 13 (i. e., "an adhesive layer mounted on said elastic band near said first end"). As discussed above, the Examiner has acknowledged at page 5 of the Final Office Action that "Peterson does not disclose having the adhesive layer near the first end." Since Peterson does not describe all of the claim elements, Appellants respectfully submit that the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 15-19

Appellants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 15-19 because Peterson does not describe each and every element of the claimed invention. Appellants can not find any description in Peterson as to a fastener that extends along a midsection of a pack such that the fastener secures the pack to an elastic band. Appellants note that Peterson only describes attaching the absorbent pad 24 to the bandage wrap 12 about the absorbent pad's 24 circumference or sides (see Peterson at col. 4, lines 15-18).

Therefore, Peterson does not describe "a fastener extending along said midsection of said pack such that said fastener secures said pack to said elastic band" as recited in claim 15. The Examiner appears to acknowledge this at page 5 of the Final Office Action by stating "Peterson does not disclose a fastener along the midsection of the pack, but does describe that the pack need not be secured to the wrap entirely around its circumference (column 4 lines 15-17)."

The Examiner attempts to overcome the acknowledged deficiencies of Peterson by stating at pages 5-6 of the Final Office Action that:

“It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Peterson by placing the adhesive layer so it extends along the midsection of the pack in order to reduce the amount of adhesive needed to secure the pack to the elastic band or to reduce the complexity required during the manufacturing of the invention.”

Appellants respectfully traverse these assertions in part because Peterson does not describe a fastener on a midsection of a pack. Appellants respectfully submit that the statements made by the Examiner regarding a motivation to modify Peterson are again mere conclusory statements of subjective belief because the statements are analogous to the unsatisfactory statements made by the Examiner and board in *In re Lee* (see quote from *Lee* case above).

In addition, Appellants respectfully question the accuracy of statement as Appellants can not see how placing adhesive along the midsection of the pack (i) reduces the amount of adhesive needed to secure the pack to the elastic band or (ii) reduces the complexity required during the manufacturing of the invention as suggested by the Examiner. Appellants further respectfully submit that there is no evidence in the cited references to support the assertions.

Appellants respectfully note that the Examiner provides no support for the assertions relating to modifying Peterson which were made in the Final Office Action. Appellants respectfully submit that the only description relating to a flexible wrap as recited in claim 15 is found in Appellants' disclosure.

The Examiner further states at page 6 of the Final Office Action that:

“it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to a person of ordinary skill in the art to place the fastener along the midsection of the pack because Appellants has not disclosed that placing the fastener along the midsection of the pack is critical to the invention. One of ordinary skill in the art would have expected Appellant's invention to perform equally well with either the fastener along the edges (as the invention disclosed by Peterson) or the fastener along the midsection of the pack”.

Appellants respectfully traverse this assertion and direct attention to Appellants' specification at page 3, lines 22-29 and page 10, lines 25-32. These portions of Appellants' specification identify that positioning the adhesive layer on the midsection of the pack, and orienting the adhesive layer transverse to the lateral edges of the elastic band, minimizes the stress that is

generated on the joint between the elastic band and the adhesive layer when the elastic band is stretched as part of being wrapped around the body. The location and orientation of the adhesive layer relative to the elastic band and the pack allows the pack to be reliably secured to the elastic band without using a pocket formed on the elastic band.

The Examiner further acknowledges at page 9 of the Office Action with regard to claim 17 that Peterson does not disclose a single adhesive layer that extends along the midsection of the pack. Appellants agree and again note that Peterson only describes attaching the absorbent pad 24 to the bandage wrap 12 about the absorbent pad's 24 circumference or sides (see Peterson at col. 4, lines 15-18).

F) Discussion of the rejection of Claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Peterson (US 5,538,500) as applied to claim 13 above, and further in view of Daneshvar (US 2003/0149389A1).

Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Peterson (US 5,538,500) as applied to claim 13 above, and further in view of Daneshvar (US 2003/0149389A1). Appellants respectfully traverse the rejection because the combination of Peterson and Daneshvar does not describe each and every element of the claimed invention.

As discussed above, Peterson does not describe “an adhesive layer mounted on said elastic band near said first end to secure said elastic band to a body, wherein said adhesive layer is adapted to be detachably mounted to skin on the body” in combination with “a plurality of fingers extending from said second end of said elastic band” as recited in claim 13. Appellants note that Daneshvar also does not describe these limitations.

Claim 14 depends from claim 13 and as such incorporates all of the limitations of claim 13. Therefore, Appellants respectfully submit that the combination of Peterson and Daneshvar does not describe a flexible wrap as recited in claim 14.

G) Discussion of the rejection of Claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Peterson (US 5,538,500) as applied to claim 16 above, and further in view of Hymes (US 6,455,065 B1) and Podell et al. (US 5,620,702).

Claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Peterson (US 5,538,500) as applied to claim 16 above, and further in view of Hymes (US 6,455,065 B1) and Podell et al. (US 5,620,702). Appellants respectfully traverse the rejection because the combination of Peterson with Hymes and Podell does not describe each and every element of the claimed invention.

As discussed above, Peterson does not describe "a fastener extending along said midsection of said pack such that said fastener secures said pack to said elastic band" as recited in claim 15. Appellants note that Hymes and Podell also do not describe "a fastener extending along said midsection of said pack such that said fastener secures said pack to said elastic band" as recited in claim 15.

Claim 20 depends from claim 15 and as such incorporates all of the limitations of claim 15. Therefore, Appellants respectfully submit that the combination of Peterson with Hymes and Podell does not describe a flexible wrap as recited in claim 20.

8. SUMMARY

It is respectfully submitted that the art cited does not render the claims anticipated or obvious such that the claims are patentable over the cited art. Reversal of the rejections and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

RICKY W. PURCELL et al.

By their Representatives,

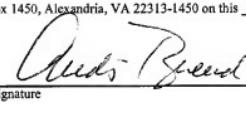
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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being filed using the USPTO's electronic filing system EFS-Web, and is addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 12 day of July 2007.

CANDIS BUENDING

Name _____

Signature 

CLAIMS APPENDIX

7. A flexible wrap for supporting a portion of a body, the flexible wrap comprising:
an elastic band; and
a plurality of fingers extending from an end of said elastic band, wherein said plurality of fingers are secured to an exposed section of said elastic band when the flexible wrap is attached to the body, wherein each of said plurality of fingers is integral with said elastic band.
8. The flexible wrap of claim 7 further comprising a plurality of fasteners, wherein at least some of the fingers includes at least one fastener for securing said plurality of fingers to said exposed section of said elastic band.
9. The flexible wrap of claim 8 wherein each of the fingers includes at least one fastener for securing said plurality of fingers to said exposed section of said elastic band.
11. The flexible wrap of claim 10 wherein said plurality of fingers includes at least one finger that extends from said end of said elastic band along a lateral edge of said elastic band and at least one other finger that extends from said end of said elastic band along an opposing lateral edge of said elastic band.
12. The flexible wrap of claim 11 wherein said plurality of fingers includes at least one finger that extends from a midsection of said end on said elastic band.
13. A flexible wrap for supporting a portion of a body, the flexible wrap comprising:
an elastic band having a first end and a second end;
an adhesive layer mounted on said elastic band near said first end to secure said elastic band to a body, wherein said adhesive layer is adapted to be detachably mounted to skin on the body;

a plurality of fingers extending from said second end of said elastic band, wherein said plurality of fingers are integral with said elastic band and secured to an exposed section of said elastic band when the flexible wrap is attached to the body; and

a plurality of fasteners, wherein each finger includes at least one fastener for securing said plurality of fingers to said exposed section of said elastic band.

14. The flexible wrap of claim 13 wherein said elastic band includes a plurality of layers.

15. A flexible wrap for supporting a portion of a body, the flexible wrap comprising:
an elastic band;
a pack that includes a midsection; and
a fastener extending along said midsection of said pack such that said fastener secures said pack to said elastic band.

16. The flexible wrap of claim 15 wherein said fastener is an adhesive.

17. The flexible wrap of claim 16 wherein said adhesive is an adhesive layer that extends between opposing edges of said pack.

18. The flexible wrap of claim 17 wherein said elastic band includes lateral edges and said adhesive layer is transverse to said lateral edges when said pack is secured to said elastic band.

19. The flexible wrap of claim 18 wherein said adhesive layer extends between said lateral edges of said elastic band when said pack is secured to said elastic band.

20. The flexible wrap of claim 16 wherein said adhesive is hydrogel

26. A method of supporting a portion of a body, the method comprising:
wrapping an elastic band around the portion of the body; and
securing a plurality of fingers that project from an end of the elastic band to an exposed section of the elastic band.

27. The method of claim 26 further comprising repositioning at least one of the plurality of fingers to customize pressure applied by the elastic band.

28. The method of claim 27 wherein repositioning at least one of the plurality of fingers includes disengaging the at least one of the plurality of fingers from the elastic band and then securing the at least one of the plurality of fingers to another part of the elastic band.

31. The method of claim 26 wherein wrapping an elastic band around the portion of the body includes wrapping the elastic band around the body more than one time but less than two times.

EVIDENCE APPENDIX

None.

RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX

None.